

UNCLASSIFIED JERUSALEM 1111
O R 262155Z MAY
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5690
INFO RUEHDM/USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 166
RUESOR/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 681
RUESAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 3645
RUESKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 3193
RUESBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 2568
BT
UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1111

26 MAY 23 18z

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MEIR'S REMARKS AT LUNCHEON FOR SECRETARY
KISSINGER

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCHOWCROFT AND ZIEGLER

1. FOLLOWING IS ROUGH TRANSCRIPT FROM TAPE OF PRIME MINISTER
MEIR'S REMARKS AT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY MRS MEIR FOR SECRETARY
KISSINGER SUNDAY, MAY 26:

2. QUOTE: DR. KISSINGER HAS PROVEN THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT
IS IMPOSSIBLE--BUT TO THE DEGREE (WORDS OBSCURED) THAT
HE HAS MADE THE ISRAELIS BELIEVE THAT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
THEREFORE, THERE IS ALWAYS EXTREME SURPRISE WHEN HE TRIES TO
PROVE TO US THAT THERE IS HERE AND THERE SOMETHING THAT IS REALLY
IMPOSSIBLE. I AM CONVINCED THAT SOME DAY NOT ONLY WILL DR.
KISSINGER'S BIOGRAPHY BE WRITTEN, BUT THAT THE HISTORY OF THIS
REGION AT THIS PERIOD OR AT ANY PERIOD, AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED,
WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING, INTERESTING CHAPTERS IN
THAT BOOK.

3. ISRAEL HAS BEEN EXTREMELY FORTUNATE THAT SINCE ITS ESTABLISH-
MENT AS A FREE AND SOVEREIGN STATE AND IN THE YEARS BEFORE
THAT WE HAVE NOT ONLY HAD, I MIGHT SAY, THE LARGEST PORTION
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH US, BUT ALL ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE
BEEN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL. WE HAVE APPRECIATE THAT; WE THINK
IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST INTERNATIONAL ASSETS THAT ISRAEL
HAD--AND HAS. BUT I THINK THAT IF ANYBODY HAD COME TO US AT
ANY TIME AND SAID THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD TAKE OUT
WEEKS IN LITERALLY SHUTTLEING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CAIRO AND
JERUSALEM, BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM, GOING IN THE MORNING
AND COMING BACK AT NIGHT, GOING AT NIGHT, COMING BACK IN THE
MORNING AND PUTTING EVERYTHING THAT THIS MAN HAS--AND HE HAS
A LOT--OF INTELLECT AND SOUL AND ABILITY AND I THINK ONE CAN
SAY WITHOUT EXAGGERATION, A MASTER OF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. I DON'T THINK ANYONE OF US IS HIS EQUAL; IT'S NONSENSE, IT'S
JUST IMPOSSIBLE. BUT THIS IMPOSSIBLE THING IS ALSO HAPPENING.
SOME OF US, FEW OF US, ARE FORTUNATE, I AM ONE OF THEM, WHO
MADE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF DR. KISSINGER SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN
HE WAS INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED THROUGH THE OFFICE THAT HE HELD,
WITH ISRAELI PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND OUR NEIGHBORS
AND SPECIFIC ISRAELI PROBLEMS. I MAINTAIN THAT ONE OF THE
DIFFICULTIES OF ISRAEL WAS--AND STILL IS--THAT WE HAVE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PG 2

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EXPLAIN OURSELVES. SOMETIMES OUR VERY BEING. I MAINTAIN THAT, AT LEAST FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, MY POINT OF VIEW, IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHAT OUR PROBLEMS ARE BECAUSE THEY ARE ACTUALLY VERY SIMPLE.

5. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE THAT CAN EXPLAIN THE EINSTEIN THEORY. I HAVE YET TO FIND SOMEBODY THAT CAN EXPLAIN SIMPLY WHY TWO AND TWO ARE FOUR AND NOT SIX. AND OUR PROBLEMS ARE NOT OF THE LEVEL OF THE EINSTEIN THEORY BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY OF THE LEVEL OF TWO AND TWO ARE FOUR. THEREFORE WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BECAUSE TO US IT SEEMS EXTREMELY SIMPLE.

6. IN THIS VAST AREA WITH SO MANY INDEPENDENT ARAB STATES, SOME OF THEM BLESSED WITH GREAT NATURAL RESOURCES, WATER RESOURCES, WITH ALMOST UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, HERE WE ARE IN A TINY SPOT IN THAT AREA WITHOUT ANY NATURAL RESOURCES, ACTUALLY WITH STILL VERY FEW IN NUMBER AND ALL THAT WE HONESTLY AND SINCERELY REALLY WANT OF OUR NEIGHBORS IS TO LIVE. TO BE ALLOWED TO LIVE. PHYSICAL EXISTENCE. AND TO LIVE IN PEACE AND IN COOPERATION AND IN FRIENDSHIP WITH THEM.

7. NOW HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN SOMETHING THAT IS SO SIMPLE? WE DIDN'T GO OUT TO GET MORE TERRITORY, WE DON'T TAKE ANY RESOURCES AWAY FROM THEM. NOTHING THAT ORDINARILY ARE THE CAUSES OF WAR BETWEEN PEOPLE. BUT THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT WE WANT TO BE, AND THEY WANT US NOT TO BE. AND THAT DEFINITELY IS A VERY DIFFICULT THING TO EXPLAIN. I AM CONVINCED THAT DR. KISSINGER WANTS TO EXPLAIN SO MANY THINGS, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE CAN EXPLAIN IT, IF YOU WILL FORGIVE ME, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS. THIS SIMPLE THING WHICH IS SO DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO SO MANY IN THE WORLD, I BELIEVE THAT DR. KISSINGER UNDERSTANDS.

8. BUT HE UNDERSTANDS--AND TAUGHT US, I THINK--VERY MUCH THE UNDERSTANDING HE SHOWED FOR THE OTHER SIDE, EVEN THOUGH WE--AND MAYBE NOT ONLY WE--THINK IT UNREASONABLE, IRRATIONAL, UNJUST. BUT I THINK HE HAS GIVEN US A LESSON THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE RIGHT AND TO BE CONVINCED THAT ONE IS RIGHT: THAT WE KNOW. BUT IN ORDER TO REACH A POINT WHERE WE CAN REALLY SIT TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE IN OUR AREA, WE MUST ALSO HAVE SOME UNDERSTANDING NOT TO ACCEPT THINGS THAT ARE NOT RIGHT BUT TO AT LEAST UNDERSTAND THEM. I THINK HE'S GOTTEN TO KNOW US, HE'S SHOWN AN AWFUL LOT OF PATIENCE WITH US, HOURS AND HOURS AND HOURS AND QUIBBLING ABOUT THINGS THAT I SUPPOSE MANY OTHERS WOULD HAVE SAID: 'THIS IS NONSENSE. SO MANY BIG THINGS ARE AT STAKE AND YOU QUIBBLE ABOUT THIS LITTLE THING.'

9. AND I THINK ONE OF MY JOYS IN ALL THESE HOURS WASN'T ALWAYS DR. KISSINGER'S JOYS; IT WAS THAT HE WAS NOT IMPATIENT WITH US WHILE WE WERE QUIBBLING ABOUT TINY MATTERS BECAUSE HE HAS GRASPED THE BASIS OF OUR DESIRE, AND THAT IS 'TO BE.' AND EVERYTHING THAT HE SAID WE BROUGHT UP, WE BELIEVED THAT IT MAY ENDANGER OUR VERY BEING. IT LOOKS SMALL. IT LOOKS TINY. IT LOOKS UNIMPORTANT IN COMPARISON WITH GLOBAL MATTERS. AND YET

PG 3

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ JERUSALEM 1111

DR. KISSINGER HAD UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR US EVEN IF HE DID NOT AGREE WITH US. SOMETIMES WE DID NOT AGREE WITH HIM. THAT WAS VERY SELDOM, BUT THAT TOO HAS HAPPENED. BUT HE UNDERSTOOD WHY AT LEAST WE BRING UP THESE MATTERS AND WHY ON SOME MATTERS, VERY FEW, USUALLY WE GIVE IN VERY EASILY, BUT WHEN WE HOLD OUT HE AT LEAST UNDERSTOOD WHY WE HOLD OUT EVEN IF HE DIDN'T AGREE.

10. MR. SISCO ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT. HE'S KNOWN US LONGER, WE'RE VERY FLEXIBLE AND VERY FORTHCOMING AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK OF US AND (INAUDIBLE).

11. AND NOW I MUST MAKE A PERSONAL REMARK: I BELIEVE WE BECAME FRIENDS. THERE IS REALLY A BASIS FOR FRIENDSHIP--ONE OF THE BEST TYPES OF FRIENDSHIP--THAT DR. KISSINGER SHOWED TO ISRAEL IS TO BRING NANCY TO US. HE DID NOT REALIZE WHAT HE WAS DOING. MORE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT NANCY THAN ABOUT HIM. WE CONSIDER THIS YOUR FIRST VISIT (TO NANCY). YOU WILL ALWAYS ALWAYS BE WELCOME. WE NOW PART WITH DR. KISSINGER. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OUR COOPERATION WILL BE CALLED SUCCESSFUL. I HOPE AND PRAY THAT IT WILL. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS YOU AND ALL OF YOU WHO WILL LEAVE THIS AREA WILL KNOW THERE IS NOTHING THAT IS MORE DESIRABLE TO EVERY ISRAELI, TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THIS COUNTRY, THAT IS THE SIMPLE THING OF PEACE. GETTING UP IN THE MORNING AND BEING SURE THAT NOBODY DIED BECAUSE HE WAS ATTACKED BY SOMEBODY ACROSS THE BORDER... WE DON'T WANT THEM TO DIE; WE DON'T WANT THEM TO KILL; WE DON'T WANT THEM TO SHOOT AT ANYBODY ELSE. WHEN WE GET PEACE IN THIS AREA, DR. KISSINGER, WITHOUT ANY EXAGGERATION, I THINK YOU WILL BE FIRST ON THE LIST, AFTER THE ISREALIS, THAT WILL HAVE MADE THIS POSSIBLE BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTOOD, BECAUSE YOU WANTED PEACE, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT IS THE THING THAT WE WANT. WE HOPE IT WILL COME. I AM SURE SOMEDAY IT WILL COME. BUT IF YOU CAN POSSIBLE MAKE IT COME WHILE I'M STILL AROUND, I'LL BE DOUBLY THANKFUL TO YOU. WE SEND YOU BACK TO YOUR REST, I WAS GOING TO SAY, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO WORK A LITTLE BIT, I SUPPOSE, THERE TOO, AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU ARE LEAVING MANY, MANY FRIENDS BEHIND--ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, PRACTICALLY, WITH A FEW THAT THINK OTHERWISE, BUT THEY'RE REALLY IN THE MINORITY. WE HAVE SET MANY HOPES ON YOU AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING. THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND TO DR. KISSINGER, TO NANCY AND TO ALL YOU AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN AROUND, ALL THE BEST, AND PEACE. L'ACHAIM ("TO LIFE"). UNQUOTE.

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